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INFO SAL 01, GPM 03, SC 01, RSC 01, USIA 12, H 02, NSC 10, NSA 02, L 03,
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3325

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: SAIGON 3156

1. ACCORDING TO SCA DIRECTOR NGUYEN VAN TUONG, GVN IS NOT PLANNING TO RESPOND DIRECTLY TO CHARGES MADE BY TRAN VAN HUONG AUGHST 15 (REFTEL). TUONG SAID THAT ELECTORAL LAW PROVIDES THAT COMPLAINTS SHOULD BE FILED WITH THE LOCAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES AND THE HUONG'S COMPLAINTS HAVE NOT BEEN FILED IN THAT MANNER. AS A RESULT, GVN HAS NO

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REASON TO REPLY, HE ADDED, ALTHOUGH HE EXPECTS THAT EITHER THIEU OR KY MAY ADDRESS THEMSELVES TO THE MATTER DURING THEIR NEXT PRESS CONFERENCE (TUONG DID NOT KNOW WHEN ONE IS SCHEDULED). (NOTE: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION LAW, IN ADDITION TO PROCEDURE MENTIONED BY TUONG ABOVE, ALLOWS FOR COMPLAINTS WITH RESPECT TO VIOLATIONS OF THE ELECTION

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LAW THROUGH COURT SYSTEM AS WELL AS COMPLAINTS REGARDING HONEST OF VOTING DIRECTLY TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. IN ADDITION, THE ASSEMBLY WILL VOTE ON THE GENERAL VALIDITY OF THE ELECTIONAND, ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 56, ASSEMBLY CAN EVEN VOTE TO ANNUL ENTIRE ELECTION IF PROVEN ELECTION IRREGULARITIES COULD OPEN TO QUESTION "HONESTY OF THE VOTING AND AFFECT THE GENERAL RESULTS OF THE ELECTION." ASSEMBLY DELIBERATIONS WILL BE BASED ON COMPLAINTS RECEIVED DIRECTLY, PLUS COURT RULINGS ON VIOLATIONS OF ELECTION LAW, AND ANY OTHER EVIDENCE WHICH THE ASSEMBLY'S SPECIAL COMMITTEE MAY ACQUIRE. IN THIS CONNECTION, ON AUGUST 10 ASSEMBLY VICE-CHAIRMAN NGUYEN HUU THONG ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF FOUR ASSEMBLY DELEGATIONS-ONE FOR EACH CORPS AREA-CONSISTING OF FOUR DEPUTIES EACH, "TO MAKE ON-THE-SPOT INSPECTIONS AND

INVESTIGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF ELECTION LAW AND "RREGULARITIES DURING COUR : OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS." DEPUTIF HAVE ALSO BEEN ASKED TO FOLLOW PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES IN THEIR CONSTITUENCIES.)

2. AS FOR THE GENERAL CHARGES MADE BY HUONG, TUONG CITED AS AN EXAMPLE COMPLAINT THAT MILITARY MEN WOULD RECEIVE TWO VOTERS' CARDS. HE REFUTED CHARGE BUT NOTED THAT CUMBERSOME BUREAUCRACY MIGHT CONCEIVABLY RESULT IN A FEW-HE EMPHASIZED "FEW" - CASES WHEREIN MILITARY MEN MIGHT OBTAIN A VOTERS CARD WHERE THEIR FAMILY RESIDES AND ANOTHER ONE WHERE THEY ARE STATIONED. HOWEVER, TUONG STRESSED THAT AN IN-STRUCTION HAS GONE OUT SPECIFYINO MILITARY MEN ARE TO VOTE WHERE THEY ARE STATIONED AND ELECTION OFFICIALS MUST BE CAREFUL TO VERIFY THIS DURING THE REGISTRATION AND VOTING PROCESS.

3. TUONG SAID THAT THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE IS DOING VIRTUALLY NOTHING, PRIMARILY BECAUSE THE COMMITTEE HAS TOO MANY MEMBERS (ONE FOR EACH OF THE 48 SLATES). HE CLAIMED THAT THEY OUSTED THEIR FIRST CHAIRMAN (NGUYEN TRAN) AND HAVE TALKED LITTLE ABOUT THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS WHICH FACE THEM. ACCORDING TO TUONG,

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THE NEW CHAIRMAN (TRAN VAN MUI) TOOK THE LEAD TO REQUEST THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE FOR AIRCRAFT TO TRANSPORT THE CANDIDATES. PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE LAID ON SEVERAL AIRCRAFT WITH THE MILITARY, BUT CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE HAS NOT YET DRAWN UP AN ITINERARY. THERE IS ALSO ABOUT 100 TONS OF CAMPAIGN MATERIAL WHICH MUST BE SHIPPED, ANOTHER UNRESOLVED MATTER FOR THE COMMITTEE. IN CONCLUDING, TUONG SAID THAT 80 PERCENT OF THE CANDIDATES ARE FROM THE SAIGON AREA AND WILL NOT CAMPAIGN OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL AREA; THEREFORE, THEY HAVE LITTLE NEED OF TRANSPORT AND FEW OF THEM, ACCORDING TO TUONG, HAVE EVEN VENTURED TO THOSE PLACES ACCESSIBLE BY ROAD SUCH AS BIEN HOA, MY THO, XUAN LOC, AND TAN AN.

4. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE HA THUC KY TOLD EMBOFF MORNING AUGUST 17 THAT HE BELIEVES TRAN VAN HUONG'S CHARGES AGAINST GVN ARE TRUE. KY MAINTAINS THAT HE IS BEING SUBJECTED TO SIMILAR PRESSURE TACTICS. KY ALLEGES THAT HIS REPRESENTATIVE IN CAN THO, VO DAI TON, BROTHER OF N DEPUTY VO HUU THU, IS BEING TAILED BY

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MILITARY SECURITY SERVICE AND, KY SAYS, PROVINCIAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES IN CENTRAL VIET NAM HAVE FOUND LOCAL AUTHORITIES VERY UNCOOPERATIVE IN SUCH MATTERS AS ALLOCATING RADIO TIME TO CANDIDATES REPRESENTATIVES AND ARRANGING MEETINGS WITH THE POPULATION. DESPITE THESE COMPLAINTS, EMBOFF FOUND HA THUC KY IN GOOD FRAME OF MIND, REASONABLY SATISFIED WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES' JOINT MEETING AT BIEN HOA ON AUGUST 16 AND STILL OPTIMISTIC ABOUT RECEIVING SUBSTANTIAL VOTE ON ELECTION DAY. KY DID NOT GIVE ANY INDICATION THAT HE PLANS TO VENT HIS CHARGES PUBLICLY IN SAME MANNER AS HUONG, ALTHOUGH HE MAY DO SO AT PRESS CONFERENCE HE PLANS TO HOLD AT CONTINENTAL HOTEL ON AUGUST 25.

5. MEANWHILE, AUGUST 17 ENGLISH LANGUAGE SAIGON POST HEADLINES RESPONSE BY PEOPLES-ARMY COUNCIL MEMBER NGUYEN THIEN NHON TO HUONG'S CHARGES THAT HE VISITED VINH-BINH IN MIJUNE TO PRESSURE PROVINCIAL COUNCILLORS AND LOCAL NOTABLES INTO SIGNING A MOTION SUPPORTING KY FOR PRESIDENT. NHON

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QUOTED BY POST AS ALSO TELLING CORRESPONDENTS ON AUGUST 16 THAT HE OFFERED HIS HEAD TO ANYONE WHO CAN PROVE THE PM KY IS CORRUPT OR HAS ENGAGED IN INFLUENCE PEDDLING. NHON

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CHARACTERIZED HUONG AS "DODDERING OLD MAN" AND SAID HE WOULDN'T BOTHER TO SUE HIM.

6. IN STATEMENT TO VIET NAM PRESS CORRESPONDENT AUGUST 16, NGUYEN VAN LOC, WHO REPRESENTS THIEU/KY SLATE ON CENTRAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, SAID CHARGES BY HUONG ARE WITHOUT FOUNDATION.

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